



NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

STACKS

APR 30 '65

THE NATIONAL SCENE

NEW POLICY FOR
STATE OPERATIONS . . . 3

REPRESENTATIVES
APPOINTED . . . 3

THE NATIONAL SCENE
SCENE . . . 1, 2, & 4

REGIONAL NOTES . . . 2

ACROSS THE CONTINENT water runs down hill and is a resource of contention. In the Northeast, a Connecticut River Valley Council is forming to help thrash out land use problems on a small but important river. . . . In the center of the continent, the Missouri Valley Authority is postponed another year while a presidentially appointed 11-men Missouri Basin Survey Commission makes a one-year study for coordinated development. . . . In the Northwest on the Snake River, Hell's Canyon Dam planned by the Bureau of Reclamation is opposed by the Idaho Power Company which wants to build a series of five smaller dams involving the same site. . . . For the nation as a whole, the American Watershed Council comes into prominence with the appointment of David J. Guy as Executive Vice President. The Council endorses the small watershed approach to water problems, and it will help develop local and regional watershed organizations. (The Council's address is 202 Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C.)

What values do we have for weighing creation against destruction? We build a dam and lose a valley. We gain power for industry and lose the productive soil. We make a lake to sail small boats and lose a trout stream. What an awe-inspiring problem it is to measure the worth of what we get and the value of what we lose.

Vital interest in resources of contention is basic to the Nature Conservancy. We hope we have lively interest which will breed action. How will we contend in the bitter battle for wise land use, especially where the last remaining samples of certain habitats are threatened? If we enter these battles belligerently, fighting noise with noise, threats with threats, and mud with mud, we are helping to pollute the intellectual streams of American thought. On the other hand, if our actions take the form of fact-finding, clarifying, educating, awakening, and reconciling opposing views, then we can use the channels of public opinion to help us salvage some useful remnants of our torn natural resources, all across the continent.

INTRODUCTION OF EXOTICS: Noted wildlifer is in a debatable position. Dr. Gardiner Bump of the Fish and Wildlife Service has been traveling in the Near East and elsewhere looking for game birds to introduce into the U.S.A. Besides the black grouse and capercaillie that are now being introduced into Wisconsin, he recommends the following for introduction into selected sites in Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, in some cases in the vicinity of national monuments: chukor, *Alectoris* sp.; sand partridge (see see), *Ammoperdix griseogularis*; black partridge, *Francolinus francolinus*; Oriental sand grouse, *Pterocles orientalis*. Also mentioned are the houbara, *Chamycloptus undulata* and the partridge, *Perdix canescens*.

It is questionable in the minds of some ecologists whether the Fish and Wildlife Service will be able to procure such exotics, free them from parasites, and ascertain, before they are introduced, the ecological effects of introduction. Possibly the F&WS is correct in (continued on page 2, column 1)

The Conservancy is now starting on a program of state operations. A Representative is being appointed to head up the work in each state. Your Representative has a big job. Give him a hand. His success, the success of the Conservancy, depends on your help!

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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THE NATIONAL SCENE (cont.):

believing that the fur-bearing nutrias accidentally introduced along the Gulf Coast will fill a niche unoccupied by the native fauna. But can biologists predict precisely what a wildlife population will do after it has filled the "unoccupied niche"? Some of the possibilities are unpleasant.

Conservationists cannot afford to be too conservative, disregarding the old adage, "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained". But they must not forget how much they already have in the way of native animal species which they stand to lose should the best guesses of some biologists happen to be wrong.

The American Ornithologists Union has passed a resolution opposing these introductions. The Conservancy adopted a similar resolution last fall (see N.C. News for Nov. 1951, also page 4 of this issue).

REGIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK: Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed highway (N.C. News, Nov. 1951) will be built as planned, despite opposition. The New York Dept. of Public Works is said to want to have closer contact with conservation groups to prevent difficulties of this sort in the future. H. Everest Clements, of Rochester, N. Y., and Richard Pough, of the American Museum of Natural History and Board member of the Conservancy, are now active in an effort to develop a permanent organized defense for all federal wildlife refuges.

FLORIDA: Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge. One fifth of area would be opened up to public hunting if the Sikes bill, H.R. 5953, passes. The Wildlife Management Institute says there is little doubt but that the passage of the bill would encourage strong local pressures for opening of all national refuges under similar terms.

NEVADA: Riddle preservation promoted. Dr. Carl L. Hubbs of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, member of the Nature Conservancy Study Committee, has created enough interest in a remnant fish population of the once vast Death Valley Lake System to obtain the addition of 40-acre Devil's Hole to the Death Valley National Monument, administered by the National Park Service. To see Cyprinodon diabolis, now safely swimming in its 50-foot private pool in striated and faulted limestone, take the highway from Furnace Creek Ranch near Death Valley Monument headquarters for 39 miles and then follow the primitive trail for 8 miles. (If you cannot go to southwestern Nevada, try to do a Hubbsian job in your own state where there may also be "fish" in trouble.

NORTH CAROLINA: Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A bill (H.R. 6784) just introduced in Congress would remove 44,000 acres recently added to the N. C. side of the Park. Its sponsor claims the failure of the Park Service to build a proposed road is the reason but it is believed the elimination of bear hunting in the area is what bothers the local citizens most. The road is provided for in appropriation bills now pending.

PENNSYLVANIA: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is the new name for the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Assn., a "citizen's non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of significant conservation areas and the development of outdoor recreation sites throughout this region".

The organization has embarked on an ambitious program of acquiring areas for preservation. At the beginning of 1951 it owned one tract of 132 acres at McConnell's Mill on Slippery Rock Creek in Lawrence County. During the year, it purchased two additional properties in Slippery Rock Valley, three in Muddy Creek Valley in Butler County, and Ohioyle Peninsula in Fayette County. The 500 acres thus acquired is only a small part of the program its sponsors have envisioned. It is now acquiring 25 acres in Butler County, primarily to preserve a notable stand of blazing star, Liatris spicata, in what appears to be a remnant of the eastern prairie extension of post-glacial time.

This local conservancy is now campaigning for \$100,000 by June 30. If it succeeds, a local foundation will match the sum. This added to a previous gift of \$50,000 makes a total goal of \$250,000. Secretary of the group is Dr. M. Graham Netting, 4400 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania.

WISCONSIN: State Board for Preservation of Scientific Areas, created by Chapter 556 of the Wisc. Laws of 1951, has held an organizational meeting with Dr. John T. Curtis of the U. of W. Botany Dept. as chairman and C. L. Harrington, Sup't of Forests and Parks, as secretary and executive officer. The group is working on definitions for various types of scientific areas, possibly along the lines of those established by the Michigan Natural Areas Council (see N.C. News for Nov. 1951). The State Board also voted to canvass recommendations already made concerning areas in the state; to invite experts in various fields of natural science to attend Board meetings; to print a leaflet describing the Board's purposes, for distribution particularly to educational centers and personnel; and to maintain contact with national organizations interested in following the work in Wisconsin.

MINNESOTA: Quetico-Superior still needs defending! On Feb. 7 the Isaac Walton League of America urged U.S. Attorney-General McGrath to cope with violators of the President's executive order reserving airspace over the Roadless Area of the Superior National Forest. The ban went into effect, sort of, on Jan. first. The League pointed out that a quarter of a century of state and federal legislation has proved the widespread public interest in maintaining these million acres as a wilderness for science and recreation. Currently the self-interest of a limited number of resort owners and plane operators is leading to violations of the ban, the League says.

BAHAMAS: Inagua Island may be saved as breeding habitat for roseate flamingos. Formation of the Society for the Protection of the Flamingos in the Bahamas may save this 4,000 pair colony from too much civilization, especially buzzing planes, which together with native persecution wiped out the famous Andnor Island Colony.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

A POLICY CONCERNING REGIONAL AND STATE OPERATIONS of the Conservancy has been adopted by the Board of Governors. This Policy shall be in effect from now until our annual meeting in September, at which time it shall be submitted to the membership for revision or approval.

The Board believes that a divisional structure by states and regions is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Conservancy. It also wants to provide a flexible structure so that local arrangements may be adapted to the existing situation, considering such factors as density of population, present number of Conservancy members, presence and form of other organizations already active in our field, and status of efforts to date.

The Policy is as follows:

I. Relation of the Conservancy to other organizations.

- a) Organizational membership shall continue as at present, on the same terms as individual membership.
- b) "Associate organization" membership shall also be available. An organization so designated shall pay the Conservancy a minimum of 50¢ for each of its members who wishes to participate. These persons shall be listed as subscribers to Nature Conservation News, but shall not vote. In other respects, associate and regular member organizations shall be similar.
- c) Eventual development of the Conservancy might be in the form of a federation, but that is not recommended at this time.

II. Representatives.

- a) The Board shall appoint a Representative for each region or state.
- b) That person shall be responsible for leading the activities in his territory in whatever manner is best suited to local conditions. The following are some of the possible activities he may undertake:
 - (1) Carry on promotional work: publicity, membership solicitation, etc.
 - (2) Organize committees to carry on projects.
 - (3) Work with and through other organizations by means of joint committees, etc.
 - (4) Initiate establishment of a division of the Conservancy.
- c) Within limits to be set by the Board, the Treasurer may reimburse a Representative who submits an itemized account of expenses he has incurred in behalf of the Conservancy.

III. Divisions of the Conservancy.

- a) Any organization adopting the name "Nature Conservancy" should be an integral part of the Conservancy, with members and finances held in common with the national group.
- b) Allocation of funds shall be by budget adopted by the board of governors, based on estimated needs of each division.
- c) Minimum dues shall remain at \$2 for regular voting members.
- d) For the present, collection of dues and dispersal of funds shall be in the hands of the national organization. All funds collected by divisions shall be turned over to the national organization to be divided according to budget.
- e) For the present, divisions shall be free to

develop as they see fit, within the following limits:

- (1) The divisions shall be governed by the Nature Conservancy members in its territory, each with one vote.
- (2) The organization and activities of the division shall conform to the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, and the By-Laws of the Nature Conservancy.
- (3) The organization and activities of the division shall conform to the other provisions of this Policy Concerning Regional and State Operations.

IV. Study and Preservation Committees and other committees of the national organization shall insofar as possible make use of the Representatives and divisions for implementing their programs.

(NOTES: This Policy is experimental. We urge you to help test it out and to send in your comments and ideas for improving it. Several sections will need modification, including those on types of organizational membership and relation of divisions to national organization.)

REPRESENTATIVES are now being appointed by the Board. They are to submit reports for the annual meeting in September and their terms of appointment will expire on September 30. At that time the program will be reorganized according to the findings and recommendations of the annual meeting. This far, the following have been appointed:

Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi: Dr. Herbert A. McCullough, Howard College, Birmingham 6, Alabama.
Alaska: B. Frank Heintzleman, Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Juneau, Alaska.
Arizona: Leslie N. Godding, Rural Route 1, St. David, Arizona.
Colorado: Dr. Hugo G. Rodeck, Director, University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, Colorado.
Connecticut: Dr. Frank E. Egler, Aton Forest, Norfolk, Connecticut.
Georgia: James B. Ross, 225 Oldfield Road, Decatur, Georgia.
Idaho: Dr. Fred T. Kolouch, 222 Seventh Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho.
Illinois: Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Vivarium Building, Wright and Healey Streets, Champaign, Illinois, (liaison with Illinois Nature Conservancy). (Dr. James M. Sanders, Chicago Teachers College, 6800 Stewart Avenue, Chicago 21, is chairman of the Illinois Nature Conservancy.)
Michigan: Paul W. Thompson, 17503 Kirkshire Road, Birmingham 7, Michigan.
Minnesota: Dr. R. W. Darland, Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota, Duluth 5, Minnesota.
New Mexico: Laurens C. Bolles, 22 Los Arboles Road, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
New York: Alvin G. Whitney, New York State Museum, Albany 1, New York.
North Carolina, South Carolina: Ernest Gibbs Patton, Botany Department, Duke University, Durham, N. C.
Oregon: Dr. Ruth E. Hopson, Rural Route 2, Box 111, Eugene, Oregon.
Utah: Stanley B. Maliak, Biology Division, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 1, Utah.
West Virginia: Dr. Albert M. Reese, 216 Lebanon Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia.

(continued on page 4)

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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1840 Mintwood Place, N. W.
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Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is \$.....

☐ Individual ☐ Organization

Membership classes are as follows:

Regular \$2; Sustaining \$5;

Contributing \$10; Supporting \$25 or more;

Patrons \$100 or more with future dues optional.

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City..... Zone..... State.....
Optional:
Occupation:.....

Major interests:.....

Club affiliations:.....

Dr. Richard H. Goodwin
Connecticut College
New London, Connecticut

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (cont.):

NO BAG LIMIT: We must give these Representatives our full support if they are to succeed. Many of these people already carry a heavy load of conservation responsibilities. The weight needs to be spread over more shoulders --and heads. Please send a postal card to your Representative to tell him that you are alive. Better still, tell him how much alive you are. What can you do to help him? Most important, we need to sew up more individuals who are not already tied up. Let's get more members in the bag; there is no limit.

If your state does not have a Representative yet, let us know if you can take the job. We need help in finding persons who are free to take on this work. And don't feel that you are not qualified. We are all learning, and enthusiasm is the most important qualification.

OUR LEAFLET, Living Museums of Primeval America, is being revised. Copies of the new edition will be available in a few weeks. It will be in the form of a single-sheet folder. We are also making up a somewhat more detailed prospectus. This will be mimeographed and will be available in limited quantities in a few weeks. Let us know how many of these you can use to advantage. (These materials will not be suitable for school use. We are planning another leaflet for that purpose.)

OPEN SEASON on new editor of Nature Conservation News: Aim any pot shots at Dr. John W. Brainerd, Associate Professor of Biology, Springfield College, Springfield 9, Mass. (Note: Treat him kindly, we don't want him to quit! --Sec'y and former Ed.)

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, Division of Biology and Agriculture has organized a Committee on Plant and Crop Ecology. The Committee on Conservation organized last year will become a subcommittee of this new committee. Other subcommittees will be Aerobiology, Agroclimatology, Plant Crop Yields, Crop Geography and Vegetation Analysis, and Plant Diseases and Pests.

ANIMAL CONSERVATION IS HUMAN CONSERVATION in more ways than one! A new regulation by the Department of the Interior prohibits the feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of any bear, deer, moose, bison, elk, mountain sheep, or antelope in the national parks. The Department points out that familiarity with large wild animals is dangerous, a fact proved by the deer that chased a snowshoe-shod Maine man up a tree the other day.